[26th March 1954

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—" விநியோகிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிற இருபது லட்ச ரூபாயும் எவ்வளவு பட்டாதார்களுக்கு விநியோகிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்பதைத் தெரிந்து கொள்ளமுடியுமா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether these loans are granted both in cash and in kind and, if so, what the percentage in each is? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I have no information on the question put by the hon. Member. But, I submit that loans are granted on the personal security of the ryots and issued up to a maximum of Rs. 500 per individual and at Rs. 35 per acre."

10-20 a.m. MR. SPEAKER :—" The Hon. the Minister for Local Administration has to attend the meeting of the Legislative Council to-day. So, I shall take up the questions relating to his department first."

Construction of a bridge over the Mambram river.

* 397 Q.—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state with reference to the answer to question No. 928 given on 23rd July 1953, the present stage of the proposal for the construction of a bridge over the Mambram river in Kottayam taluk, North Malabar?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" The Chief Engineer (Highways) has reported that the approximate cost of the bridge will be about Rs. 5 lakhs. The District Board has proposed the inclusion of the work in the Central Road Fund programme. No final decision has been reached yet."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—" Will the Government realise the difficulties of the people in the area on account of the non-existence of a bridge and come to an early decision on the matter? "

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Yes, Sir. That is why the Special Officer of the District Board has recommended the taking up of this work. We shall consider the question."

Playground for the Board High School, Payyanur.

* 402 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal to acquire land for being used as playground for the Board High School, Payyanur, North Malabar?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Yes, Sir. Acquisition proceedings have been started."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that this high school with a strength of more than 800 students is running without a playground for the last quarter of a century and

that the people have been requesting the Government very often for the provision of a playground? Therefore, will the Government expedite the work and provide a playground for the school?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Yes, Sir. That is why a Special Officer has been posted for expediting acquisition proceedings."

Construction of bridges across the Sonnehalla and Thattahalla in Kollegal taluk.

* 415 *Q*.—SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was any proposal to construct bridges across the Sonnehalla and Thattahalla on either side of Hanur in Kollegal taluk; and

(*b*) if so, the present stage of the proposal?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The works have been included in the five-year plan of road development and they will be taken up for execution by the Coimbatore District Board in due course."

SRI S. C. VIRUPAKSHIAH :—" Will the Government take into consideration that these rivers cut the road which is the only means of communication in this taluk?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" That is why that work is included in the Development Programme and it will be taken up in the due course."

Payment of land-tax by Government to Municipalities for vacant lands.

* 418 *Q*.—SRI T. ANANTA PAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have been paying land-tax to any municipality for vacant lands belonging to the Government?

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Yes, Sir."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" May I know why the vacant land tax has not been paid to the Udipi Municipality?"

THE HON. SRI K. RAJARAM :—" Vacant land, though under the strict interpretation of the Madras District Municipalities Act means land not occupied by or adjacent or appurtenant to buildings and not used exclusively for agricultural purposes, will ordinarily mean vacant sites fit for construction of houses or other buildings. It is not the intention of the Act to levy tax on all kinds of vacant and poramboke lands belonging to Government from which no income is derived by Government."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" Repeated representations have been sent by the Municipality of Udipi that, without this tax being